

August 29, 2005

Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Nassif Building, Room PL-401
Washington, D.C. 20590-001

IN RE: DOCKET NO. OST-2005-22119
RIN 2105-AD53
TIME ZONE BOUNDARIES IN THE STATE OF INDIANA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express the desire of my constituents to remain in the same time zone as the rest of the Chicago metropolitan area.

It is my understanding there is no intent this time to change the time zone of any county currently located within the Central Time Zone. As Mayor of Whiting, Lake County, Indiana (located in the Central Time Zone), I want to ensure the Department of Transportation that it is the overwhelming desire of our citizens to maintain our current time zone.

All of the media in Whiting, whether it be print, radio or television, is tied to the Chicago metropolitan market. A good number of our residents commute on a daily basis to jobs in downtown Chicago as well as a number of suburban communities. Most of our residents fly out of either Midway or O'Hare Airport if a destination is not served by the Gary/Chicago Airport. Our rail transportation system (South Shore line) is specifically designed to serve downtown Chicago.

The major element of our economy, the BP refinery, has its corporate office located in the Chicago suburbs. Our local restaurants and businesses receive supplies from Chicago and the surrounding communities.

When the residents leave the community for recreation, schooling, health care or religious worship, we go to surrounding Indiana Counties or to the Chicago Metropolitan area. All are currently in the Central Time Zone.

It is extremely important that our residents be reassured that our time zone will not be tampered with in any way. All of our activities are tied to Chicago rather than Indianapolis. Northwest Indiana has always been affiliated with the Chicago metropolitan area rather than Central Indiana. We want the Department of

Transportation to understand that it is crucial to our community's well-being and development that the central time zone for Lake County Indiana be maintained. I believe all of the surrounding communities are of the same opinion and desire.

If you have any questions regarding this matter or if I can provide you with further information or documentation, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for the opportunity to express the concerns and desires of my constituents in this matter and for taking those concerns into consideration in this process.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Stahura, Mayor
City of Whiting, Indiana

cc: Congressman Peter J. Visclosky
Governor Mitch Daniels